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generally vertical axis arranged generally coplanar with the longitudinal axis of said adapter, and with the upper and lower surfaces of said adapter defining, in combination, at least three generally parallel stabilizing support surfaces, each stabilizing support surface opening to the forward end of the adapter, with each stabilizing support surface being at least partially surrounded by a generally vertical wall extending normal to and between a stabilizing support surface and the respective upper and lower surfaces of the adapter, with each stabilizing support surface having a lateral width less than the spacing between the sides of the nose portion of the adapter, and wherein the generally vertical wall of each stabilizing support surface extends at least partially in a fore-and-aft direction and on opposite lateral sides of said [vertical] longitudinal axis;

said excavating tooth defining a blind cavity configured to snugly fit endwise about the nose portion of the adapter, with the blind cavity defined by said tooth having upper and lower surfaces that complement the upper and lower surfaces of said nose portion of the adapter and include structure for abutting and cooperating with the three stabilizing support surfaces on the adapter, said structure including generally vertical wall structure which, when said tooth and adapter are arranged in operable combination relative to each other, abuts with the generally vertical wall at least partially surrounding each stabilizing support surface of the adapter to transfer side load forces imparted to the tooth toward [a centerline] the longitudinal axis of the adapter, said tooth further defining a pair of axially aligned openings that open to the cavity of the tooth and operate in conjunction with the elongated aperture defined by the adapter; and

pin structure extendable through the openings in the tooth and through the aperture in said

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adapter to releasably hold the tooth and the adapter in operable combination relative to each other.

[Please amend Claim 30 as follows:]

27 30 (Amended) An assembly for attaching an earth engaging tooth to a ground engaging implement, comprising:

a support defining a longitudinal axis and having a base attachable to the implement and a nose extending forwardly from the base, said nose having laterally spaced sides and converging upper and lower surfaces terminating at a forward end, said support defining an elongated aperture open at opposite ends, said aperture defining a generally vertical axis arranged generally coplanar with the longitudinal axis of the adapter, and with the upper and lower surfaces defining, in combination, at least three generally parallel stabilizing support surfaces, with each stabilizing support surface opening to the forward end of the support, and wherein each stabilizing support surface extends generally horizontal and includes a wall at least partially extending in a fore-and-aft direction to opposite lateral sides of said [vertical] longitudinal axis and between a respective stabilizing support surface and the respective upper or lower surfaces of the support;

said tooth having a blind cavity including upper and lower surfaces that complement the upper and lower surfaces of said nose of the support, with said upper and lower surfaces of said blind cavity including structure for abutting and cooperating with the three stabilizing support surfaces on the support, said structure including generally vertical and at least partially fore-and-

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aft extending wall structure which, when said tooth and support are arranged in operable combination relative to each other, abuts with the walls of the stabilizing support surfaces on said upper and lower surfaces of the cavity defined by said tooth to facilitate transference of lateral forces imparted to said tooth during an excavating operation to said support, said tooth further defining a pair of axially aligned holes opening to the cavity in the tooth and which act in conjunction with the elongated aperture defined by said support; and

pin structure extendable through the holes in the tooth and through the elongated aperture in said support to releasably hold the tooth to the support.

#### REMARKS

Responding to the September 9, 1999 Office Action, Claims 14, 15 and 17 through 28 have been canceled by the present response. The allowability of Claims 1, 2, 4 through 9, 11 through 13, 31 through 32 and 64 through 78 has been noted in the Action. By the present response, pending Claims 29 and 30 are amended to clarify the structure of the present invention.. No additional filing fee is required and no new matter has been added. Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested.

By the present response, certain amendments are proffered to pending Claims 29 and 30. The proffered amendments clarify the structure of the present invention and an adequate basis for the proffered amendments is present in the original drawings forming part of the disclosure of the present invention. Entry of the proffered amendments into the record of this patent application is

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